

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 10, 14, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pruden (U.S. Patent No. 1,891,179). Claims 10, 14, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Leonard (U.S. Patent No. 2,554,111). Claims 10, 14, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Adilleta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,324,584). Claims 10, 14, 18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Musker (EP Patent No. 0 043 700).

Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 17 and 22 were indicated as allowable. Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowance.

Claims 10 and 20 have been amended. Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitation "the ironing board cover being positively connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding." The Examiner appears to have noted in the Office Action that such a limitation would overcome the prior art rejections and Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for this suggestion.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 10, and claims 14, 18 and 20 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

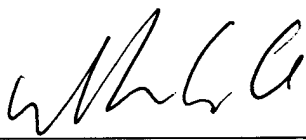
Support for the ironing board cover being positively connectable to an ironing board via padding is found in the present application as filed in German as a PCT National Phase Application of International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/EP2003/007905 under 35 U.S.C. 371. This support is demonstrated by the enclosed Rule 1.132 Declaration and the accompanying email from ATA-certified German into English translator Suzie Gagliardi, which shows that the term "formschlüssig" means "positively connected." Support for the ironing board cover being positively connectable to an ironing board via padding is also found in the present application in the English specification at paragraphs [0005] to [0009], for example. The Examiner's remarks at page 5, lines 5 to 7 of the Office Action demonstrate that the English specification conveys with reasonable clarity to those of skill that the ironing board of the present invention is positively connectable to an ironing board via padding.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,  
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